

thereby, and would it be believed that last year forty works of art were exhibited, which no money could touch? Looking to this fact, it was said, "If you had a committee they would have bought these works of art." They could not, the works having been disposed of before they were exhibited; but I trust we shall be able to increase the number of fine works from 40 to 400, from which we may have the power of selection. We wish for no private advantages, but simply to improve the arts, and give encouragement to artists.

Sir W. Russell, R.A., rose to move a vote of thanks to the Committee, and said, may it please your Royal Highness I have had the honour of having a resolution put into my hands, but could wish that it had been intrusted to some one more able to do it justice than I can. I trust, however, that the assembly before me will for itself supply my omissions. When we consider the importance of the duties which the officers and Council of the Art-Union are called on to discharge, I shall, I think, be sure of receiving the hearty and grateful concurrence of this large assembly in the resolution which I have just moved. For my part, I who have been so little accustomed to business, look with admiration on those gentlemen who give their time and their talents for business to such a cause as this. I feel the utmost gratitude to them myself, and I am sure you do also. Without further trespassing on your time, I beg to move the resolution.

Mr. Urwin, R.A., said I most willingly rise to second the motion, for I feel how large a debt of gratitude is due from the public to the officers and council of the Art-Union: and I would willingly dwell on the subject of the resolution, for I know much of the exertions to which it refers, but the hint which your Royal Highness gave to every one called to address the meeting suppresses that desire. I know how desirable it is that the business of the meeting should be expedited, and I therefore confine myself to cordially seconding the resolution proposed by Sir W. Russell.

His Royal Highness, the Chairman, then put the resolution to the meeting, and it was agreed to unanimously.

Mr. Wyse, who was received with loud cheers, then came forward and said, Your Royal Highness and Ladies and Gentlemen, I have been intrusted with a resolution which I have the greatest pleasure in moving, witness as I have long been of the zealous and efficient services of the gentlemen who are the object of this motion. I am called on to move, that the best thanks of this meeting be presented to the Honorary Secretaries, and do so with great sincerity. They have, from the beginning, directed their attention to the improvement and extension of art; and in saying this, I mean all which can apply to a body like the Art-Union. For unless there is reform and improvement in art, its extension is useless; and again, however great may be the improvement and reform, if these are confined, the progress of art is not advanced. In these two forms or divisions of art lie all the obligations which devolve upon all associations of this kind. Your Royal Highness will bear me witness, that for the last two or three years there has been a very remarkable movement in both directions, in reference both to the improvement and to the diffusion of art. For a long time art was a matter of luxury and external enjoyment, and no appeal was made to those higher feelings, and that more elevated intellectual gratification which form the chief value, and are the highest constituents of art. We then confined ourselves to a few schools, such as the Flemish, the Dutch, or our own immediate English school, without extending our attention to the Italian school, or to that large mine of enjoyment and elevation contained in the school of Christian art. For the first time, that has lately been alluded to, and by the impulse given not only in the building of the new Houses of Parliament, but in awakening through the country a sense of the value of that department which had hitherto escaped attention, we have extended largely the dominion of taste in every part of the country. Again, by the application of art to all the ordinary purposes of life, by its application in the thousand forms of manufacturing process, we have brought it down to the every-day enjoyments of the people, presenting to them during every moment of their lives,

sources of feeling and intellectual observation, from which they have been hitherto debarred. And these improvements have not been confined to the few. For a long time in this country, art was only the representative of money, and the question was, not what the value of a picture was, but how much it cost. Not how many enjoyed it, but how few. It was then not for the people, but for the rich only; and with a view to its exclusion from the people, the collections in the country were conveyed to the remotest parts of it, instead of being thrown open to the nation. With such a drag it was impossible to improve, for the highest judge of art is the people, and the most impelling and encouraging rewards in its pursuit are those which are conferred by the nation. It was useless to talk of encouraging art without looking to the people at large for doing so. It was so with all nations who had made any progress in the arts—it was so in Athens and Rome, and during the middle ages, for what the temple was in Greece the church was in Italy. There the people were taught to see that art was made for them, and they for it. I remember, that when I was last in Italy, while at Bologna, not merely were its galleries open to the public—not merely was there admission by tickets to privileged collections, but the collections were brought to the people—placed in arcades, in the public streets, and the whole population of town and country let in to see them for eight days continuously. And these were paintings of the highest value, and were returned to the galleries of their owners without a single scratch. I remember hearing Cornelius say that until you appealed to the people, until you painted for the whole nation and made them your judges, you need never hope for approbation from them, or that the knowledge and love of art would become general among them. In music the public was admitted as at Exeter hall and other places, and it is only by making art,—as the oratorio and opera are at present—the enjoyment of the people, that you can hope for its elevation. I rejoice that this body, culminated as it has been, and supposed to be merely an encouragement of the feeling of adventure, has established its claims to support. There must of course be a progression of steps in this, as in every other institution; for the highest point gained had its beginning at the lowest, and the greatest and most conservative feelings were at first innovations. And so I say, that if this body wants to do all that the arts of Italy and Greece have done, in preparing the people for the appreciation of those tastes, hitherto confined to the aristocracy, it must diffuse the enjoyments of art through all classes of the community. Thus the same benefits would be produced, the wonderful effects of which I have seen exemplified in Germany, a country which stands so deservedly high in art. As your Royal Highness will testify, there is scarcely a town there, which has not an institution for the exhibition of works of art, in which the whole people participate. After having overcome many difficulties, and after having consolidated our Association, by the assent of the Government and the Legislature, we have now met to promote the reform and diffusion of art, through all classes of the population. I beg to move the resolution which I have already read.

Mr. Zouch Troughton, —May it please your Royal Highness, ladies and gentlemen, after the very eloquent and useful speech which you have just heard, I shall not occupy your time by any remarks of mine, but, as an old member of the Council, having seen the exertions of the honorary secretaries, content myself with seconding the resolution, which I do most cordially.

The motion having been put from the Chair as carried unanimously.

Mr. Godwin, in returning thanks, said— I think this is the tenth year during which, in conjunction with my excellent friend Mr. Pocock, I have acted as your Honorary Secretary, and I may therefore now regard you as old friends. I feel exceedingly proud that, during that period, we have maintained your confidence. The Society stands now in a very different position from that which it occupied at our last annual meeting, but it must not be forgotten that with our increased powers have also come increased responsibilities; and that it is the duty of the Council (a duty which it is prepared to exercise) to use its

utmost efforts to forward the interests of Art. For this purpose, several projects are now before the Council, projects which have occurred to different members, and one has suggested itself to me, which, at the risk of occupying five minutes of your valuable time, I will throw out to you. The great object of this Association has been well expressed, as directed to let a knowledge of art enter into the minds of the people, to spread a love of art among them, and make the public capable of appreciating it. Now I would suggest that the Council should appropriate a sum of 1000, or 1500, to obtain each year from the most eminent man a course of lectures on the Philosophy of Art, which might be delivered here, or in some other suitable place, and to which every member should be admitted. We should thus increase the enjoyment of subscribers, give knowledge, and add to our Art Literature, which has been hitherto an appanage to Englishmen. A new series of works on Art would be produced by the plan which I have mentioned, and with the advantages of publication afforded, we could induce the best men to take upon them the duties of this professorship. Does this meeting approve of the plan? I accept that expression of approbation, and it will serve as a means of strengthening the hands of the council, if they should entertain my proposition. I will say no more than to thank you very heartily, and to remind you of our great desire, which is, to make good art cheap, and cheap art good.

Major Adair and Mr. Denys having been appointed scrutineers:

The Duke of Cambridge rose and said, Ladies and Gentlemen, you will permit me now to retire, which I do, wishing you a success, and that as many of you as possible may win prizes. In that wish, I must not, however, forget myself, for charity begins at home.

Mr. Wyse having been called by the meeting to fill the vacant chair, said—I feel great pleasure in obeying your wishes, and I beg to propose for your acceptance and approbation a vote of thanks to the illustrious duke who has just left the chair. I need not in your Royal Highness's presence add one word to the approbation of this meeting beyond saying, that your connection with this body has been most useful, and that when we were in difficulties, none gave us more effectual assistance than your Royal Highness. When we were seeking for a charter of incorporation, and to secure the sanction of the legislature to our association, I had the honour of accompanying his Royal Highness, when he made a most urgent appeal to the late prime minister on behalf of this institution. If you had heard our president on that occasion, you would say that I had not uttered one word in respect to him which was not fully deserved. I therefore without diffidence propose a vote of thanks to the illustrious duke.

The vote of thanks having been carried by acclamation, his Royal Highness took his departure, and Miss Atkinson and Miss Templeton having been appointed to draw the numbers and prizes, the following persons were declared to be successful:—

*Entitled each to a Work of Art of the Value of Three Hundred Pounds.*

Estcourt, Col. B., Tetbury  
Potter, R., Dartford

*Two Hundred Pounds.*

G. M. R., per J. T. Grove, Swansea  
Hogg, W., 32, Crutched Friars  
Stanton, A., Thrupp, Stroud

*One Hundred and Fifty Pounds.*

Hughes, T., Trinity place Halifax, York  
Kennedy, Thos., 100, Chancery lane  
Morrell, Mrs., Mortimer, Rectory, Woodham  
Ravenhill, —, 36, Old Broad street  
Wilson, Col. B. H., Caracas, W. I.

*One Hundred Pounds.*

Baldock, Mrs., Sevenoaks  
Batterby, Chas., 2, Dale street, Liverpool  
Desbois, J., Gray's Inn passage  
Dorman, C. W., King street, Hammersmith  
Tennant, H. D., Emmett street, Poplar  
Thomson, H., Primrose, Clitheroe

*Eighty Pounds.*

Brown, Miss, 32, Francis street, Torrington sq.  
Beckingham, C. H., 415, Strand  
Cawood, T. B., Dewsbury